

BEET SUGAR AND CONGRESS

Representatives of the Industry Before the Ways and Means Committee.

LITTLE HOPE FOR A HIGHER TARIFF

German Competition Threatens Its Growth, but Senatorial Opposition is Too Great to Be Overcome at Present.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(Special Telegram.)—Beet sugar has an inauspicious start before the ways and means committee of the house, Thomas R. Butler of Utah, representing the sugar interest, although B. A. Oxnard of the American Beet Sugar Association, and E. N. Ham of the Chico (California) Valley Beet Sugar company, joined in the presentation of their case. Mr. Butler reviewed at considerable length the threatened increase of the export bounty abroad, and stated that such action would fall with crushing, if not exterminating force, on domestic sugar industries, which are now struggling against great odds, and he called upon the committee to come to the relief of sugar manufacturers to counteract this new foreign policy. Cuba, he stated, would have but 300,000 tons of sugar this year, as against 1,000,000 tons last year, and the United States will therefore be compelled to draw heavily upon Germany's export bounty products, and that country is moving in the proper direction to take all industrial advantages which the government and the sugar interests can possibly derive from the war with Cuba and Germany. Mr. Butler said it was commercial warfare between nations which at once eliminated all domestic political conditions, which usually enter into tariff discussions.

MAY NOT PASS THIS SESSION.

Chairman Dingley, upon conclusion of Mr. Butler's statement, said he was not hopeful of remedial legislation at this session; that the house had passed a revenue law which had been gutted by the senate, and that the best sugar interest of this country, in his opinion, was to resist German invasion by higher duty on the policy of 1890.

SOUTH OMAHA'S POSTOFFICE.

Representative Mercer made a strong effort today while the sunny civil bill was under discussion in the house to have \$75,000 appropriated for the construction of a postoffice at South Omaha. He stated that the Fifty-third congress had passed a bill providing for the purchase of a site and the construction of a building at South Omaha not to exceed \$100,000 in cost, including the site. Notwithstanding the time that has elapsed this far not a step has been taken by the Treasury department even to purchase a site.

"It does not take a great financier to buy a postoffice site and erect a building there," said Mr. Mercer, "in any one of the cities of the United States, and there is no excuse for not doing justice to one of the busiest and most important cities of the country by simply executing a law. For over a year \$25,000 has been available, \$15,000 of which is to be applied in the purchase of a site. Bids, he said, had been asked for a number of times, all within the price, but the Treasury department continued its masterly game of inaction.

Representative Cannon opposed the amendment as offered by Mercer as wholly unnecessary at this time. The secretary of the Treasury, he said, has authority to contract for the building from cellar to dome. Cannon further said that he had examined the plans for the construction of a postoffice at South Omaha and that he had not yet acquired the site and that he would not exceed the amount already appropriated for the next twelve months. A running debate was kept up as to the policy of the department and the architect came in for considerable criticism. A vote being taken on Mercer's amendment it was lost.

MERELY NOTED.

R. C. Stiles, S. D., appointed postmaster at Otla, Brule county, S. D., vice C. H. Clark, resigned.

In the case of James F. Boyd against Joseph D. Lewis from the McCook, Neb., district, the secretary of the interior today affirmed the commissioner's decision, holding Lewis' homestead entry for the tract in controversy for cancellation on the ground that he already held 160 acres. The secretary also denied the application of the amount of William A. Ward, entryman, for a tract of land in South Dakota on the ground that the appeal had not been filed within the time allowed by the rules of practice.

Arthur J. Griffin of Lisbon, Ia., has been appointed a railway mail clerk.

First Lieutenant Robert J. Huff, Eighth Cavalry, is granted a month's further leave on surgeon's certificate of disability.

Post Captain William H. Scott is granted four months' leave.

Leave for seven days is granted First Lieutenant Samuel L. Farnon, First Infantry. A number of petitions were filed by Iowa congressmen today from their constituents calling for a tax on filled cheese.

Representative Cousins introduced a bill granting an honorable discharge to Stillman Stotts.

More Work for Pan-American Bureau. WASHINGTON, March 31.—A meeting has been called for tomorrow morning at the

State department of representatives of all the countries of Central and South America which were represented at the Pan-American conference and are now bound by the main provisions of the treaty of American Republics. The purpose is to consider and adopt plans for the future conduct of this bureau. The meeting was presided over by the acting director of the bureau, who was also the director of the bureau in the last annual report of the director. The bureau, as he said, was organized for the purpose of the future conduct of this bureau, and the work has progressed so far that there is need for the adoption of a program for the undertaking of new lines of operations.

VILAS OPPOSED THE SUBSIDY.

California Senators Maintain It is Made Necessary by Competition.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The expected debate on the resolution for a senate inquiry into recent bond issues did not occur today, as Mr. Peffer gave notice that he would defer his motion to proceed with the subject until tomorrow. The postoffice appropriation bill, carrying \$93,000,000, was considered in part, but not completed. A sharp debate on mail subsidies arose, Mr. Vilas opposing an extension of the subsidy system, while Senators Perkins and White of California upheld it. Senator George's speech in opposition to Mr. Dupont's claim to a seat in the senate occupied most of the day and was not completed.

Mr. George had not finished when, at 4 o'clock, he yielded and the postoffice appropriation bill was passed. Mr. Peffer announced that he would defer his motion to take up the resolution for a senate inquiry as to recent bond issues.

The postoffice appropriation bill, the amendment appropriating \$12,818,580 for the free delivery system had added to it the provision that no part of the sum should be used for payment of postoffice inspectors. The amendment, giving \$80,000 additional compensation to the postoffice inspectors, was passed. The amendment giving \$80,000 additional compensation to the postoffice inspectors, was passed.

Mr. Vilas said the mail subsidy system adopted some years ago had entirely failed in giving more expeditious or better mail service and in extending American shipping, while it had greatly increased the cost of the postal service. The senator said he had special interest in this subject because he had resisted, while he was postmaster, the inauguration of mail subsidies and spoke of the large subsidies paid to Canadian lines with a view to monopolizing the trade from the Orient. English lines, he said, to secure complete control of the commerce of the Pacific. "It is a shame and a reflection on American patriotism," said Mr. Perkins, "that we enter into such a competition with the world."

Mr. White said the service could not continue unless additional compensation were given. The president of the senate said the American line with ships sailing south of the equator.

Mr. Vilas demanded a roll call on the subsidy bill, but further progress was cut off by adjournment at 5 o'clock.

CONTRACTS FOR INDIAN SUPPLIES.

Annual Opening of Bids Takes Place in April and May.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The annual opening of bids for general supplies for the Indian service will take place at Chicago April 28, and at New York, May 19, under an order just issued by the secretary of the interior. A number of unsuccessful attempts have been made in previous years to restrict the opening of the Chicago warehouse by abolishing the New York Indian warehouse. The contracts to be let will involve in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000, which amount will be divided between the two warehouses. At the Chicago warehouse the bids will be for a year, for four, and for five years, for general supplies, including food, clothing, and other necessities. The contracts for the New York warehouse will be for a year, for four, and for five years, for general supplies, including food, clothing, and other necessities.

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PARTIALLY AGREE ON A BILL

Pacific Roads Committee Now Waiting for More Information.

DEBT TO BE EXTENDED AT TWO PER CENT

Payment of Interest and Some of the Principal to Be Made Each Year—Government to Take Possession in Case of Default.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The Pacific railroad committee of the two houses have suspended their work in order to procure certain data from the secretary of the treasury to enable them to proceed intelligently in the preparation of the bill, which they propose bringing in. So far, the proceedings of the committee have been based upon a bill containing the following provisions:

The Union Pacific and Central Pacific systems are to be recognized separately, but subjected to requirements in most respects similar. The secretary of the treasury is to ascertain the amounts of the government loan, principal and interest, in each case up to January 1, 1897, deducting payments already made, and the sinking fund of each of the roads is to be credited on the debt to the government.

The entire property of the two lines is to be mortgaged to the government, subject to the first mortgage, covering the entire government debt, including principal and interest and bonds issued to the government bearing 2 per cent interest, payable semi-annually; there is to be in each case an annual payment of principal, amounting for the first ten years to \$300,000, the next ten years to \$500,000 and thereafter to \$750,000 until the indebtedness is wiped out, but this provision is likely to be changed so as to increase the annual payments, and to increase the sinking fund.

Parties are authorized to refund their other debts and to issue a first mortgage to secure their 4 per cent bonds to run for fifty years, giving the government the right of preemption over the government loan; the companies are to be allowed to issue preferred stock, and to pay not to exceed 4 per cent dividends, but the government is to have the right to take possession of the roads in case of default.

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